DEMOCRATIC
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"Instant Rockets"

(from "Daily Express" London)

The rockets of the West German Bundeswehr can go into action within five minutes at any time of the day or night, West German Defence Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel stated in a sabre-rattling speech on November 12th. He was addressing the Christian Democratic Fraction of the West German Parliament.

The Bundeswehr has been equipped for some years with tactical nuclear rockets such as the short-range "Honest John", and Bundeswehr units have been in the United States for many months training on the "Pershing" rocket. This is claimed to be a tactical rocket, but in fact has a range of 400 miles; this means that almost the whole of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland could be hit from West German launching pads. If shot to the west, London and Paris would be well within range.

The rockets themselves and the launching pads are under the full control of the nazi generals who run the Bundeswehr; the nuclear warheads, without which the rockets are useless, are nominally held under lock and key by US personnel attached to the West German units.

In his speech to the Christian Democrats, Defence Minister Hassel announced that West Germany would spend 20 thousand million marks on arms in 1964, compared with 18 thousand million in 1963. He said that the Bundeswehr could fire off its rockets within five minutes, the Luftwaffe could take the offensive within 15 minutes, and 30% of the army units could be ready for action within two hours.

On November 15th, two days later, the West German Defence Ministry announced that the West German navy would soon have eight 3300 ton cruisers armed with nuclear rockets. The Paris Treaty of 1954 which sanctioned West German rearmament specifically banned West German warships of this size, as well as rockets, but subsequent revisions of the treaty have cancelled most of these bans.

Judge Engelbrechten — More News

In the last issue of GERMAN REPORT we revealed that Fritz von Engelbrechten, judge at the West German Federal Court, had formerly been judge in a nazi military court, and that there was evidence that he had ordered the murder of a whole Belgian family which had sheltered a shot-down British airman.

Further investigation into the past history of this leading West German judge shows that in 1935 he was writing articles describing himself as one of the "trusty followers of the Führer". Von Engelbrechten's article appeared in the January 1935 issue of "Das Innere Reich", a Munich periodical describing itself as a "magazine for poetry, art and German life." Here are a few sentences from the article written by this worthy judge:

"These grey-clad warriors (of World War One) have handed on to us, the younger generation, the ideals of fighting readiness and eternal soldierliness, and have made us what we are today: the trusty serving followers of our Führer. Those of us who could not take part in the Great War, and thus reach the highest stage of comradeship, soldierly comradeship, have at least been through the post-war period. In these years, in our Wehrverbände (right-wing para-military formations, ed.) we have been part of a comradeship which was often sealed by blood and death. When we acted in the 'red' areas of our great cities we had to rely one on the other. We are joined by an inner comradeship forged by the danger of death."

The files show that Judge von Engelbrechten, after his membership in some unspecified right-wing militarist organisation, joined the brown-uniformed nazi storm troops in 1933.

GDR PARLIAMENT ELECTS TOP BODIES

The two main governing bodies of the German Democratic Republic, the State Council and the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, were constituted at the first meeting of the newly elected People's Chamber on November 13th and 14th.

The State Council, which is directly elected by the People's Chamber, has supreme state authority when the People's Chamber is not sitting; its functions are roughly equivalent to those of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in the Soviet Union. The Chairman of the State Council, at present Walter Ulbricht, is head of state.

The Council of Ministers, headed by a Prime Minister named by the strongest party fraction in the People's Chamber, is the executive and administrative organ of the state, with the task of guiding policy on the basis of laws passed by the People's Chamber and the decrees of the State Council.

On the following pages we give short biographical notes on the members of these two bodies.

THE STATE COUNCIL

Chairman

Walter Ulbricht, 70, SED. First Secretary of SED Central Committee. Carpenter. Communist MP during the Weimar Republic. Emigrated to Soviet Union during nazi period, did dangerous anti-fascist front-line work during Second World War. First Deputy Prime Minister from 1949 to 1961, State Council Chairman since then.

Deputy Chairmen

Otto Grotewohl, see Cabinet.

Johannes Dieckmann, 70, Journalist and economist. Co-founder and Deputy Chairman of the LDP. President of People's Chamber since 1949. President of German-Soviet Friendship Society. Member of GDR Peace Council.

Gerald Götting, 40, Secretary-General of CDU since 1949. Member of National Council of National Front, Vice-President of German-African Society.

Heinrich Homann, 52, Deputy Chairman of NDP. Former Wehrmacht officer and one of the founders of Free Germany Committee in the Soviet Union in 1943. On Committees of National Council and Peace Council.

Manfred Gerlach, 35, Secretary-General of LDP since 1954. Member of National Council and Committee of GDR-Britain Society.

Hans Rietz, 49, mechanic, Deputy Chairman of DBD. Joined Young Communist League in 1928. Conscripted into Wehrmacht, worked as anti-fascist lecturer in POW camps. On the Committee of German-Soviet Friendship Society.

Members

Professor Erich Correns, 67. Research chemist. His wife was murdered by the nazis. Director of Institute for Synthetic Fibre Research. Chairman of National Council of National Front.

Friedrich Ebert, 69, SED. Printer. Former Social Democratic journalist and editor. Sent to concentration camp by the nazis. Lord Mayor of Berlin since 1948. Deputy Chairman of People's Chamber from 1950 to 1963.

Erich Grützner, 53, SED. Chemical worker. Joined Communist Party in 1932. Imprisoned by nazis. On the FDGB Central Executive. Leipzig District Council Chairman.

Professor Lieselott Herforth, 47, SED. Chemist. Director of an Institute in Dresden Technical University. Member of GDR Education Commission and head of a GDR section in Comecon.

Friedrich Kind, 35, CDU. Mechanic. Member of CDU Central Executive. On Committee of German-Soviet Friendship Society.

Bernard Koenen, 74, SED. Metal worker. Joined Social Democratic Party in 1907, Communist Party in 1920. Forced to emigrate to Soviet Union in the nazi period. GDR Ambassador in Prague from 1952 to 1958.

Else Merke, 43, DBD. Farm worker. Helped found one of the first agricultural producers' cooperatives in 1952.

Dr Günter Mittag, 37, SED. Railway worker. Studied at GDR Transport College. Member of GDR Research Council Executive. Head of Industry and Building Section in SED Central Committee.

Christel Pappe, 28, Women's Democratic Federation. Laboratory worker, studied chemical engineering. Engineer in Office Machines Factory in Sömmerda. Active in local politics.

Karl Rieke, 34, SED. Farmer. Chairman of an agricultural producers' cooperative since 1953. Member of GDR Agricultural Council.

Professor Hans Rodenberg, 68, SED. Actor and producer. Worked on Soviet films and Moscow radio during nazi period. Deputy Minister of Culture since 1960. Member of German Academy of Arts.

Horst Schumann, 39, SED. Pianomaker. Worked in his father's anti-fascist resistance group during the war. His father was murdered by the nazis. Head of Free German Youth since 1959.

Klaus Sorgenicht, 40, SED. Office worker. Studied law and jurisprudence. Works in SED Central Committee.

Christian Steinmüller, 36, NDP. Office worker, studied economics. Director of paper processing industry in Dresden district.

Willi Stoph, see Cabinet.

Paul Strauss, 40, SED. Carpenter. Works in building industry and is a trade union official.

Secretary

Otto Gotsche, 59, SED. Plumber. Joined the Communist Party in 1921. Sent to concentration camp in 1933, worked underground after release. Author of several anti-fascist novels. After 1949 he held provincial government posts and was Walter Ulbricht's personal secretary until appointed State Council Secretary in 1961.

The GDR Parties

SED = Socialist Unity Party, the strongest party in the GDR, formed in 1946 by the amalgamation of the Communist and Social Democratic Parties.
CDU = Christian Democratic Union.
LDP = Liberal Democratic Party.
NDP = National Democratic Party.
DBD = Democratic Peasant Party.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Prime Minister: Otto Grotewohl, 69, SED. Printer. Former Social Democratic member of Reichstag. Worked underground in nazi period. Prime Minister since 1949. Deputy Chairman of State Council.

First Deputy Prime Minister: Willi Stoph, 49, SED. Building worker. Joined Communist Party in 1931. Minister of Interior from 1952 to 1955. Minister for National Defence from 1956 to 1960. Member of State Council.

DPM: Alexander Abusch, 61, SED. Editor and writer. Joined Communist Party in 1918. Forced to emigrate to Paris, then to Mexico in the nazi period. Minister of Culture from 1958 to 1961.

DPM and State Planning Chief: Dr Erich Apel, 46, SED. Mechanic, qualified engineer. Worked in the Soviet Union until 1953. Deputy Minister for Engineering from 1953 to 1955, Minister for Heavy Engineering from 1955 to 1958, head of SED Economic Commission from 1958 to 1961. Member of GDR Research Council.

DPM and Foreign Minister: Dr Lothar Bolz, 60, National Democratic Party. Lawyer. Stricken from the rolls by the nazis in 1933. Emigrated to Poland and the Soviet Union. Minister for Reconstruction from 1949 to 1953. Foreign Minister since 1953.

DPM: Paul Scholz, 61, DBD. Farm labourer. Sentenced for "high treason" by the nazis in 1935. Minister for Agriculture from 1950 to 1952. DPM since then.

DPM and Minister of Health: Max Sefrin, 49. Christian Democratic Union. Business man. Minister of Health since 1958. President of German-Southeast Asia Society.

DPM: Dr Max Suhrbier, 61, Liberal Democratic Party. Lawyer and financial expert. Deputy Minister of Finance from 1959 to 1961.

DPM: Dr Margarete Wittkowski, 53, SED. Economist. Joined Communist Party in 1932. Forced to emigrate in 1935. Head of Consumers' Cooperatives from 1951 to 1954. Deputy State Planning Chief from 1954 to 1961.

DPM: Bruno Leuschner, 53, SED. Office worker. Joined Communist Party in 1931. Nine years' prison and concentration camp in nazi period. Chairman of State Planning Commission from 1952 to 1955. GDR representative on Comecon Executive Committee.

Minister for Foreign and Inter-German Trade: Julius Balkow, 54, SED. Mechanic, studied engineering. Joined the Social Democratic Party in 1931. Sent to concentration camp for 7 years in 1934. Deputy Foreign Trade Minister in 1956 and Minister since 1961.

Minister of Justice: Dr Hilde Benjamin, 61, SED. Lawyer. Joined Communist Party in 1929. Stricken from the rolls by the nazis in 1933. Worked underground throughout nazi period. Her husband was murdered by the nazis. Vice-president of GDR Supreme Court from 1949 to 1953. Minister of Justice since 1953.

Minister of Culture: Hans Bentzien, 36, SED. Teacher. Studied social sciences. SED Secretary for Culture and Education in Halle from 1958 to 1961.

Minister of Interior: Friedrich Dickel, Lt.-Gen. 49, SED. Steelworker and electrician. Joined Communist Party in 1931. Fought with International Brigades in Spain, then went to Soviet Union. Deputy Defence Minister in 1959.

Head of Central Statistical Administration: Professor Arno Donda, 33. Statistician. 1959, Director of Statistics Institute in College of Economics, 1963 Professor of Statistics.

Minister and Chairman of GDR Agricultural Council: Georg Ewald, 37, SED. Farmer. Has held important government and party posts.

State Secretary for University and Technical Training: Professor Ernst-Joachim Giessmann, 44, SED. Physics and mathematics teacher. Head of Heavy Engineering College, Magdeburg, from 1956 to 1962.

Minister and First Deputy Planning Chief: Dr Karl Grünheid, 32. Bricklayer. Studied economics. Head of Association of Nationally Owned Heavy Industrial Engineering Enterprises since 1956.

Minister of Defence: Heinz Hoffmann, 52, SED. Mechanic. Joined Communist Party in 1930. Fought with the International Brigades in Spain. Helped organise People's Police and Armed Forces after 1945. Minister since 1960.

Minister of Education: Margot Honecker, 36, SED. Office worker. Secretary of Free German Youth Central Council from 1949 to 1954. Employed in Ministry of Education since then. Deputy Minister since 1958.

Minister for Building Construction: Wolfgang Junker, 34, Bricklayer, qualified building engineer. Held key posts in building industry until 1961, then appointed Deputy Minister.

State Secretary and Head of Agricultural Purchasing Commission: Helmut Koch, 41, office worker, studied economics. Has worked in government purchasing administration for many years.

Minister of Transport: Erwin Kramer, 61, engineer, SED. Joined Communist Party in 1929. Fought with the International Brigades in Spain. Director-General of GDR Railways from 1949 to 1954. Minister of Transport since 1954.

Minister and First Deputy Chairman of Agricultural Council: Heinz Kuhrig, 34, SED. Electrician. Studied agriculture. Worked for some years in SED Central Committee Agricultural Section. Head of Institute of Agricultural Technology from 1961 to 1963.

Minister for Trade and Supply: Gerhard Lucht, 50, SED. Office worker. Joined Social Democratic Party in 1931 and Communist Party in 1945. Was President of Consumers' Cooperatives from 1954 to 1963.

Minister and First Deputy Chairman of Economic Council: Erich Markowitsch, 50, SED. Worker. Joined Communist Party in 1929. Spent the entire nazi period in concentration camp. Director of Iron Foundry in Eisenhüttenstadt from 1954 to 1959. Has since worked in State Planning Commission and Economic Council.

Minister and Head of Workers' Inspection Committee: Heinz Matthes, 36, SED. Bricklayer, studied building engineering. Has held important government and party posts.

Minister for State Security: Erich Mielke, 55, SED. Worker. Joined Communist Party in 1925. Fought with the International Brigades in Spain. Minister since 1957.

(cont. at foot of next page)

POLICY SURVEY

GDR Government Declaration on Foreign Affairs, Berlin

The People's Chamber, or Parliament, of the German Democratic Republic, elected on October 20th, met for its first session on November 13th. After electing the State Council, and re-appointing Otto Grotewohl as Prime Minister, the People's Chamber debated the government programme. The main government declaration was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Willi Stoph, acting for the Prime Minister who is in poor health. Here are some of the main points from his speech:

The main aims of the German Democratic Republic in the coming period must include final liquidation of the remnants of the Second World War, conclusion of a German peace treaty, and a peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem by turning West Berlin into a neutral free city with guaranteed access routes, Willi Stoph stated.

"The foreign policy of the GDR is based firmly upon our friendship with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the Socialist world system. We reject categorically all attempts to undermine the role of the Soviet Union in the Socialist world."

Relations between the GDR and its neighbours Poland and Czechoslovakia were particularly close and friendly. Today the socialist states were responsible for almost 40% of the industrial production of the world; according to UN figures the economies of the socialist countries were expanding twice as fast as those in capitalist countries. The GDR, to take only one example, would soon be producing twice as much as the whole of Germany in 1936.

"Recent experience has shown that a proper international division of labour on an equal basis is only possible on a socialist basis. The contradictions inside the West European Common Market show that under capitalist conditions integration leads to sharpened trade battles, and a further exploitation of the workers. This imperialist integration speeds up the unequal rate of development, and continually produces new contradictions."

Deputy Premier Stoph stressed the close links between the GDR and Cuba, and the good development of relations, particularly trade relations, with Yugoslavia. He regretted that ideological differences with China had been reflected in a decline in trade links, and expressed the hope that in future relations with China would develop in a manner fitting to the relations between two socialist states.

Recognition of the GDR

"The Bonn Government tries hard to prevent other states from normalising their relations with the GDR by claiming that the aim of the GDR is to obtain full international recognition. This is a deliberately misleading claim. The GDR has long been recognised internationally as a sovereign state. At present the GDR maintains diplomatic and consular relations, or inter-state relations of other types, with 34 states, inhabited by over half the total population of the worlr.

"The reality of the international recognition of the GDR can also be illustrated by the fact that both German states participated with equal rights in the Foreign Ministers Conference in Geneva in 1959: certain West German circles try to forget this fact today, but facts remain facts.

"In conversations with MPs and other public figures from the NATO countries, who are today visiting the GDR in ever increasing numbers, the necessity of normalising relations between their countries and the GDR is always emphasised. The first step necessary in this direction would be for the NATO states to remove the ban on visits by GDR citizens, and to remove the obstacles to international cooperation, particularly in the fields of culture and science. This can be done by ending the arbitrary rule of the Allied Travel Office in West Berlin which is inspired by Bonn and run by occupation officers. (The ATO in West Berlin bans the journeys of nearly all GDR citizens to NATO countries, ed.)

"The Bonn Government is always clamouring for 'freedom of travel', but its acts prevent such freedom. It is a fact that the world-famous GDR theatre 'Berliner Ensemble' is not able to perform in NATO countries; it is a fact that GDR representatives cannot attend international congresses in NATO countries; it is a fact that Bonn has prevented important West German buisinesses from exhibiting at the Leipzig Fair.

"Bonn demands that its NATO partners sharpen the trade embargo

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THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(cont. from previous page)

Minister and Chairman of Economic Council: Alfred Neumann, 53, SED. Carpenter. Joined Communist Party in 1929. Fought with the International Brigades in Spain. Arrested by Gestapo in France and sent to concentration camp. Has been Economic Council Chairman since 1961.

Minister and Deputy Chairman of Agricultural Council: Hans Reichelt, 38, German Peasants' Party. Office worker. Prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, attended anti-fascist training course there. Minister for Agriculture and Forestry since 1955.

Minister of Finance: Willi Rumpf, 60, SED. Office worker. Joined Communist Party in 1925. Concentration camp from 1933 to 1938. State Secretary in Ministry of Finance from 1949 to 1955 and Minister since 1955.

Minister of Posts: Rudolph Schulze, 44, Christian Democratic Union. Druggist. Prisoner of war in Soviet Union, attended anti-fascist training courses there. President of GDR Chamber of Commerce from 1955 to 1958. Since then head of "Intercontrol" Berlin (Inter-German purchasing office).

Minister and Deputy State Planning Chief: Gerhard Schürer, 42, SED. Mechanic. Has held important economic planning posts.

State Secretary for Research and Technology: Dr Herbert Weiz, 39, SED. Economist. Has held important posts in industry and government. Deputy Chairman of GDR Research Council.

President of German Notenbank: Rolf Wetzel, 42, SED. Insurance expert and economist. Has been bank president since 1961.

Minister and First Deputy Economic Council Chairman: Hans Wittik, 40, weaver, textile engineer. Has held important government posts. Deputy Chaiman since 1961.

against the socialist countries; this shows who is the trouble-maker in Europe. This policy is a hindrance to peaceful international cooperation, but it cannot affect the economic development in the socialist states.

"In the same breath with its clamour for embargoes, Bonn speaks about normalising West German trade relations with some of the socialist states. We welcome all steps to such a normalisation, but we should like to draw attention to statements made in influential West German circles that they intend to utilise trade missions in the socialist states for aims which have nothing to do with trade.

"Since inter-state relations are being established between West Germany and socialist states in eastern Europe, why should normal trade relations not be established between the GDR and capitalist states in western Europe? Why cannot the GDR establish trade missions in London, Paris and Rome, and why cannot British, French and Italian trade missions be opened in Berlin, the capital of the GDR? This would be a practical step towards detente, a step which would be of advantage to all partners.

"The Government of the GDR believes that the time has come for the sovereign GDR to become a member of the United Nations, and other international organisations of which it is not yet a member.

"After all, the GDR is the peace state on German soil; it is the legal German state, since it has wiped out militarism and fascism in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, since it pursues a consistent peace policy, and since it strives for friendly relations with all states and pursues an anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist policy."

Turning to the question of nuclear weapons, Willi Stoph repeated previous GDR appeals for German renunciation of atomic arms. Both German states, and West Berlin should solemnly renounce the production, acquisition or co-ownership of nuclear weapons.

"The Government of the GDR has noted with interest the fact that official circles in the USA and Britain have announced their agreement in principle with the establishment of atom-free zones in Latin America and Africa. If Washington and London have no basic objections to atom-free zones, why do they oppose the creation of such a zone in central Europe, where the two big military groupings confront each other? An atom-free zone in this area would be of particularly great importance.

"The GDR strongly urges a non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact powers, and measures to prevent surprise attacks. We are ready to make an effective contribution in support of the German people's obligation to see that Germany never again threatens its neighbours or the peace of the world. We remind the governments of the USA, Britain and France that they took a pledge to this effect in the Potsdam Agreement."

The GDR Deputy Premier recalled that the GDR had announced its readiness to negotiate agreements on the reduction of foreign troops in both German states, and the exchange of military observers to prevent surprise attacks. The GDR stands by its offer, made in January 1963, to sign a goodwill pact with West Germany, a pact which could include agreement on an arms stop.

Turning to West German efforts to obtain control of nuclear weapons by participation in the NATO "Multilateral Force", Willi Stoph stated that this would create a serious situation.

The West Berlin Situation

"The GDR Government has repeatedly defined its attitude towards the abnormal situation in West Berlin. West Berlin does not form part of West Germany, and the Bonn Government has no rights in West Berlin or with regard to West Berlin.

"Today national forces everywhere in the world are opposing imperialist occupation and imperialist military bases, but West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt clings to the occupation regime and regards the presence of occupation troops, and his subservience to their orders, as a particular sign of liberty.

"The ruling circles in West Berlin, with the support of the occupation powers, wage cold war against the German Democratic Republic.

"In the past few weeks we have witnessed provocative acts on the GDR access routes (between West Germany and West Berlin, ed.); these provocations have been launched in order to disturb the atmosphere of detente. We must state quite clearly that West Berlin lies on the territory of the GDR, and that all access routes to West Berlin belong to the territory of the GDR.

"These access routes are subject to the sole jurisdiction of the GDR. This is not altered by the fact that our Government has transferred to the Soviet troops stationed in the GDR the task of supervising the transit traffic of the western military forces still stationed in West Berlin. In accordance with the general rules of international law, transit traffic on the transit routes of the GDR is governed by our laws and regulations. The cold warriors of Bonn should note that they have nothing to do with the matter at all.

GDR Machine in Pentagon

Teleprinters of this type, made in the German Democratic Republic, are now chattering away in the Pentagon in Washington. The GDR machines, made in the nationally-owned RFT factory in Karl-Marx-Stadt, send and receive messages at the western end of the "hot line" linking Washington and Moscow; they were supplied by the Soviet Union under the Geneva Agreement of June 20th, under which each side provided the technical equipment for use at the other end of the line, designed to minimise the risk of accidental war.

"A few words must be said about the demagogic declarations of West Berlin politicians with regard to the transit traffic to West Berlin which passes through the GDR. On one hand these people applaud when the Allied Travel Office in West Berlin, based on the long outdated occupation regime, prevents GDR citizens from visiting NATO countries. On the other hand they clamour for 'free access' to West Berlin.

"In 1962 there were more than 8,500,000 transit passengers on the roads and railways of the GDR between West Berlin and West Germany; nearly 10,000,000 tons of goods made the journey in trains, lorries and by barge. These are hard facts, facts which should be known. Imagine what would happen if we behaved like the West German Government, the West Berlin administration and the Allied Travel Office in West Berlin. It is easy to imagine what an effect this would have on traffic to and from West Berlin.

"The West Berliners themselves are the people primarily interested that their administration should conclude normal agreements with the GDR Government on transit traffic to West Berlin by road, rail, water and air. The GDR has repeatedly stated its readiness to conclude such agreements."

Referring to the fact that western allied vehicles, particularly American, regularly tour East Berlin, where they have been involved in a number of incidents, ranging from traffic violations to rowdyism and theft, the Deputy Premier stated: "We cannot allow members of the occupation forces stationed in West Berlin to endanger the life and security of our citizens, or to damage our property.

"In the name of freedom, self-determination, and the national dignity of the German people we call for an end to the foreign domination of the NATO powers in West Berlin. The conversion of West Berlin into a demilitarised neutral Free City would ensure a peaceful life for the people of West Berlin.

"We are ready to negotiate peacefully all questions connected with normalising relations with representatives of the West Berlin Senate. We have named our representatives for the negotiations; it is high time for the West Berlin authorities to take the necessary steps."

How Wrong Can You Get?

On the preceding pages, we give a summary of the most important passages from a speech in the GDR People's Chamber by Deputy Prime Minister Willi Stoph.

The same speech was reported on November 15th by "The Guardian", Manchester, which claims to be a serious and reliable newspaper. The report, written by Norman Crossland, Guardian correspondent in Bonn, contained some curiously bad reporting. Here is the evidence:

1. "The Guardian" stated: **"Herr Willi Stoph today threatened that further measures would be taken against Allied traffic using the autobahn between West Germany and West Berlin."**

Reference to our report above, which includes all relevant passages, will show that there is not even a hint of "further measures to be taken against Allied traffic" between West Germany and West Berlin.

2. "The Guardian" stated: **"He (Stoph) demanded that contracts and treaties should be signed with the Western powers under which new regulations would be laid down."**

Reference to our report shows that he called for agreements on transit traffic to be concluded between the West Berlin administration and the GDR. The report in "The Guardian" is only correct if West Berlin, with its population of two million, is counted as a "western power"; this is scarcely customary usage.

3. "The Guardian" stated: **"Herr Stoph attacked the Allies for sending into East Berlin 'coachloads of military tourists'."**

This may be a minor point, but the Stoph speech mentioned neither "coachloads" nor "military tourists"; he spoke of "members of the foreign occupation troops" visiting East Berlin. Anyone in touch with the Berlin situation knows that he was not talking about the regular sight-seeing coach trips for western soldiers, which have not been involved in incidents, but about the military sedans, mainly American, which tour East Berlin at all hours of the day and night to emphasise US claims to have "right of access" to East Berlin; these prowl cars have been involved in frequent incidents.

* * *

When "The Guardian" recently withdrew from Germany the Honourable Terence Prittie, for years the most unreliable British correspondent in Bonn, there was some hope that his successor would be able to distinguish between fact and fiction. But now the Prittie mantle has fallen upon Mr Crossland.

Killers Jailed

A West German court in Hanover sentenced two nazi killers to long terms of imprisonment on November 18th for mass murders of Jews in occupied Poland during the Second World War. Günter Fuchs, leading Gestapo official in Lodz, was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Otto Bradfisch, another Gestapo official, to 10 years imprisonment.

During the long trial the two Gestapo men called, as witnesses for the defence, Hans Globke, recently retired West German State Secretary, and Carlo Schmidt, Social Democratic MP.

Günter Fuchs, although named as a murderer of Jews in Gerald Reitlinger's famous book "The Final Solution", published in London in 1953, was never molested by the West German authorities until a survivor of the Lodz massacre recognised him on the street in Hanover in 1960. Fuchs had then been working for some years under his own name, and without any attempt to conceal his past history, as an official of the Refugee Ministry in the province of Lower Saxony.

Werner Ventzki, Lord Mayor of Lodz during the nazi occupation, who was responsible for the actions of his subordinates in the city, has never been brought to justice. He is today a leading official of the West German Refugee Ministry.

PERSECUTION

Nine hundred political prisoners are at present serving sentences in West German prisons, and about 80,000 further political cases are being investigated by West German prosecutors. These figures were given by Dr Ammann, West German defence attorney in many political trials, at a meeting of the West German "Amnesty Committee for Political Prisoners" in Frankfurt/Main in mid-November.

Communists had been the first victims of political persecution, Dr Ammann said, but action was now being taken against trade unionists, opposition journalists and writers and opponents of conscription.

Spares for US Cars

A GDR firm has begun large-scale production of spares for US cars. The spares are destined for Cuba, which can no longer obtain car parts from the USA because of the trade embargo.

"To be counted sitting down, in groups of 30, is a basic Western freedom"

(The dramatic inside story of the Marienborn crisis, as related by Major-General Sir Roderick Tall-trouser, Deputy-Director of Western Face, in a specially written new instalment of his memoirs, "Forty Years of Saving it".)

Michael Frayn, resident satirist of the London "Observer", has recently thrown new light on the autobahn dispute. On this page we reprint the results of his researches into the subject.

MARIENBORN! Throughout the annals of the free world the name will ring like a clarion call. Whenever they hear it, men will lift their heads proudly and say: —

"Our tailboards were never lowered!"

Any Communist present will no doubt reply: —

"Oh yes they were, so pooh, pooh, pooh!"

Which I'm afraid just goes to show that the Russians are not only totalitarian aggressors, but *bad losers*, and if there is one thing an Englishman cannot stand it is a bad loser.

The truth is that for 41 hours the Americans remained in their lorries on the *autobahn* and valiantly refused all Russian requests for co-operation in counting them. They refused to dismount. They refused to lower their tailboards.

*

As soon as we at Face H.Q. were informed of the Americans' position, we sent out a British and a French convoy as relieving forces, with strict instructions to remain seated and keep their tailboards up at all costs. The Russians, I regret to say, took this as the opportunity to play a particularly dirty trick on the American commander. They told him that at Babelsberg, at the other end of the *autobahn*, the French had, in fact, lowered their tailboards.

Fortunately he refused to believe it. "What?" he must have said to himself. "Is it likely that the French, who did not lower their eagles at Austerlitz or Borodino, have lowered their tailboards at Babelsberg?"

In reality, I am pleased to say, our tailboards held firm all along the line.

The truth of the matter is that the Russians had evidently not bothered to acquaint themselves with the rules by which we play the game — a copy of which we had taken the trouble to forward to them for their enlightenment. In them it is clearly laid down that we will not dismount our troops to be counted if there are fewer than 30 being carried in a convoy, and that in this number we do not include drivers and co-drivers, since they can be seen perfectly well through the windows of the cab without any question of tailboards arising, or indeed falling.

The views of my American and French colleagues and myself, I may say, were in the closest harmony throughout the crisis. At one joint staff meeting the warm emotional tone rose to such a pitch that I became somewhat carried away. I stood up and sang to the assembled Western officers: "British tailboards never, never will be lowered."

At this, I am proud to say, there was applause, and my French colleague jumped up and declared: *"Ils ne baisserons pas!"* The senior American general present added: "Be assured, gentlemen, that when the time comes to stand up and be counted, we will sit down and refuse to be counted." It was truly a moving moment.

According to our analysis, the greatest danger was the possibility of escalation. That is to say, if we once agreed to lower our tailboards so that our men could be seen and counted, the Russians might immediately go on to insist that they could not really see the men until they had also lowered their trousers.

Once this stage had been reached, it was difficult to see how it would be possible to avoid war.

*

At the height of the crisis we were naturally under pressure from some quarters to offer a compromise. It was suggested that we might provide the shorter Russians present with some sort of box to stand on, so they could see into the lorries, or that we might half lower the tailboards, or that our troops might half stand up with their knees bent.

The waverers were given the short shrift they deserved. I myself reaffirmed our basic beliefs in a very firm memorandum, and I think it might be valuable to recall here exactly what I said.

"Let us make no mistake", I wrote. "Our tailboards are our bulwarks against Communism.

"To be counted sitting down, with the tailboard up, in groups of not more than 30, is one of the basic freedoms that we in the West hold dear.

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"Now let there be no misunderstanding about this. To be counted sitting down with the tailboard up in groups of *more* than 30 (not counting those sitting behind glass) is, of course, an entirely different matter. That is not so much liberty as licence, and would not be countenanced by any right-thinking man. We leave such practices to the Communists.

"To put all this in a word — and one which I know our boys out there on the autobahn will appreciate hearing — 'Tailboards up, chaps!' "

The truth of the matter is this. It has been demonstrated once again for the world to see that the Russians — as anyone who has dealt with them knows — are really just children at heart. To make Ivan lose face is to hit him where it really hurts.

Of course, we should never inflict this terrible retribution unprovoked. But the lesson of Marienborn is once again that our constant readiness to inflict loss of face on friend Ivan is the best deterrent against his doing the same to us.

(Next week: My secret weapon, the Tall-trouser quick-firing Pooh Pooh Pooh gun.)

("The Observer", London, November 10th 1963)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

John Peet

Nobody can say that the bright industrialists of West Germany are slow to provide the paying customer with what he wants. A few weeks ago, there was an uproar in Bonn when it became widely known that the old SS officers who today staff the West German secret police were tapping telephones left, right and centre (but mainly left, of course).

To meet the wishes of those who like to phone in privacy, the Sommerkamp Electronic Company of Dusseldorf is now offering telephone scramblers for private subscribers. They cost about £200. Hitherto, as far as I know, this expensive gadget has been reserved to prime ministers and army top brass, who like to keep their conversations to themselves. Now scramblers are available to anyone who can afford them: "now even your own office switchboard will not be able to listen in", says the enticing advertisement.

For non-technical readers, I should perhaps explain that the telephone scrambler is an electronic device which distorts the voice so that it cannot be understood by an eavesdropper — unless, of course, he too has invested in a de-scrambler from this go-ahead firm.

Refrayn

On page 175 of this issue we reprint an article by British satirist Michael Frayn on the autobahn incidents. This inspired piece of writing throws at least as much light on the affair as any of the straight reporting I have seen.

The great difficulty about being a satirist these days is that fact may easily catch up with your fantasy. Nearly two years ago, in February 1962, we re-ran another Frayn piece about the Berlin wall. In this article, a British public relations consultant, after explaining how British Minister Christopher Smoothe visited the western side of the Wall, and looked firmly into the distance from a viewing platform, continued thus:

"There's only one tiny worry I have, and that's exactly what we'd do if the East Berliners built a viewing platform on their side of the Wall, and started running VIP trips to stare at Christopher and the rest. I know it would seem absolutely unbelievable cynicism to us, but I wouldn't put it past the Communists to use a situation like this for the purposes of propaganda."

So much for the fantasy; very shortly after Frayn's column appeared the GDR authorities did in fact build a raised platform opposite the western platform at the Brandenburg Gate, and VIPs from both sides can gaze at each other, at roughly spitting distance.

So far as I know there have been no llama-like incidents.

Recognise

Early in November, the British Government announced its recognition of the military junta which seized power recently in the Dominican Republic. Foreign Office spokesmen at the United Nations informed scandalised delegations from Latin American countries that it was always the policy of the British Government to recognise existing governments whether it liked them or not. Some Latin Americans pointed out that it had not followed this policy with regard to the German Democratic Republic, but the Foreign Office spokesmen declined to comment.

Big Threat

"Trouble for Allied military vehicles driving in East Berlin was threatened today by East Germany's deputy leader Willi Stoph. **In future Allied traffic would be made to obey East German traffic rules, he said.**"

("Daily Express", London, November 15th)

Interestingly enough, a group of fine democratic western countries recognised the Dominican junta on the same day — Franco's Spain, Salazar's Portugal, and Chiang's Taiwan. If only fascist dictators like Franco and Salazar would recognise the GDR, (recognition for which the GDR is not particularly eager, by the way), then I suppose Sir Alec Douglas-Home would follow suit.

Swiss Miss

Now that Hans Globke, State Secretary to ex-Chancellor Adenauer, and author of the infamous Nuremberg Laws, has finally retired, I really thought that we might be able to drop the subject, but he is still in the news. A number of Swiss politicians, displeased at the news that Globke, one of Hitler's main experts on the "Jewish problem", had built himself a house at Chardonne-sur-Vevey on Lake Geneva, requested the Swiss Government to keep him out of Switzerland. The Swiss Government has just announced that since Globke does not intend to move into his house in the near future, or even use it for holidays, there is no reason for concern. Perhaps Globke will take the hint and build himself another house in Spain, where he would be in more congenial company, at least for the time being.

Weak?

Propagandists for atom bombs for West Germany often use the argument that NATO is so weak in "conventional" arms that it has to spread the bomb in order to make up for this weakness.

US Defence Minister Robert McNamara, probably unwittingly, killed this argument stone dead on November 18th when he stated in a lecture in the United States that NATO had more than five million men under arms, while the Warsaw Pact states had about four and a half million.

He added: "In Central Europe NATO has more men, and more combat troops, on the ground than does the (eastern) block. It has more men on the ground in West Germany than the block does in East Germany. It has more and better tactical aircraft."

Stays

My blessings on those inadequate translators, who always provide a bit of copy when I am ferreting around to find something to fill up this page. A year or two ago I cited the classic statement in some foreign-language publicity by a GDR clothing firm that it could supply "clothes for easily washable little boys". My latest specimen comes from a publicity release issued by the East Berlin Tourist agency. This pamphlet assured foreign visitors that in East Berlin they could inspect "the stays of famous people". For a giddy moment I thought that Karl Marx's corsets might be on display at some museum, but I then realised that the hapless translator was only referring to the houses in which famous people had stayed.

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